

Minutes – January 17, 2024
Arlington Disability Commission

Meeting opened at 6:05pm (Paul Raia moved, Grace Carpenter seconded the opening of the meeting.)

Call to Order, Ground Rules, Welcome

Ground rules: Please do not use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting. Co-Chairs as well as some Commissioners have disabilities that make it difficult to deal with Zoom chat/messaging. Please raise your hands if you want to speak. Guests please defer to Commissioners, then guests may speak.

Roll Call

Members Present (Quorum met):

Janice Cagan-Teuber
G Carpenter
Kerrie Fallon
Michael Rademaker
Kari Sasportas (Chair)

Terms have expired:

Paul Raia (this is Paul's last meeting as his term has expired)
Ileana Gatica (recently moved to Winchester and had to resign her position)
Cynthia DeAngelis

Staff Present:

ADA Coordinator: Tim Ross tross@town.arlington.ma.us

Guests:

Don Seltzer
Christine Pullara
Emily Driscoll
Rebecca Gruber
Ellen Leigh

Minutes: Reading/correcting/approval

Moved by Michael Rademaker, Seconded by Paul Raia to approve
Minutes as corrected - Approved unanimously by roll call

Honoring past commissioners:

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- **How to honor Paul Parvanno?**
 - Bench in town
 - Commission Meeting Room named in his honor
 - Your Arlington article about Paul will be forwarded to Grace Carpenter for the purpose of putting it in our newsletter
 - “Wall of Recognition” for Commissioners who have served
 - Have a section in the Annual Report recognizing former Commissioners

Guest Introductions:

- Monte French – Designer of 1500 Mass Ave

Variance Request – 1500 Mass Ave

- 4 Residential units
- 1st floor commercial (formerly 2 family house)
- Large ledge in back and costly to remove, so the building was pushed closer to Mass Ave.
- There was discussion about accessibility
- Developer responded to AAB’s questions
- Developer requesting variance
- Questions/comments from Commissioners
 - AAB would ask Disability Commissioner’s opinion/input
- Questions/comments from Guests
- Michael Rademaker moved, Janice Cagan-Teuber seconded that we will look into seeing if we can comment on the variance request and if we have time to write to the AAB – Passed by role call vote
- Tim Ross will contact AAB to see if we have time to comment

2024 Priorities:

- Kari Sasportas suggested we needed more structure and that we should set up work groups
- Some work groups might be:
 - Recreation
 - Communication
 - Outreach
 - High School Building Committee
 - ADA transitional Budget
- Liaisons to other Commissions/Boards/Committees
- Based upon our Bylaws, it makes sense to have liaisons with other Boards and the Disability Commission
- Janice will check the schedule of the High School Building Committee

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MOD Grant updates:

- Decisions have been delayed again. Hopefully, we will have a decision by our next meeting

Sub Committees:

- **DEI**
 - **ISD** has a new hire
 - Tim Ross will visit the transition plan to see what has been completed and what is still left
 - Question: can we still add to the plan?
- February and March, there will be training sessions offered to the public by the MCAD (Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination)

DPW:

- HP Parking at the High School has been increased

CODA:

- Both Kari Sasportas and Kerrie Fallon attended the meeting
- Very packed meeting
- Several commissions did not have time to report
- Somerville and Cambridge have issues with crosswalks that were raised
- Theres's design allowed for 4-way intersections to be allowed

Correspondence

- We received contact from a woman who is unable to leave her house and is looking for a remote Arts & Crafts group
- Person contacted the commission needing to find a Representative Payee
- Please remember to cc Tim Ross or the Commission's with any contact personally received, relating to commission business

Public Comment:

- Rebecca Gruber stated feeling sentimental about Paul Parravano;s passing
- All members agreed
- Don Seltzer discussed 1500 Mass Ave (a 3 story building) which is not ADA compliant, as is 885 Mass Ave
- Very serious issues of new buildings bypassing ADA compliance, then once they're called on it, asking for waivers
- Arlington Redevelopment Board has been invited to meet with the Commission, but no date has been agreed upon
- Kerrie Fallon asked if the Commission should write a letter to the Redevelopment Board strongly requesting their attendance at a Commission meeting
- Parking design which had originally been HP, was changed so that there is now a step down to the entrance from that parking
- The new zoning needs to include a design review which includes accessibility

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Announcements

Ileana has moved from Arlington, so had to resign from the commission. She suggested the commission have someone who is a caregiver as a new member.

We need to review bylaws

Adjournment

- No quorum at the time of adjournment so could not vote for closure of the meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm
- Next meeting will be February 21, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Cagan-Teuber, Secretary